

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EEWT, RO

SUBJECT: TRADE AGREEMENT RENEWAL

REF: BUCHAREST 323, 1563

1. U.S. POSITION ON THE TRADE AGREEMENT REMAINS AS STATED
AT THE JOINT COMMISSION IN NOVEMBER: WE STRONGLY SUPPORT
ITS EXTENSION UNDER ARTICLE XII.2.(D). IF EMBASSY BELIEVES
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THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT (GOR) NEEDS FURTHER REASSURANCE OF
OUR SUPPORT, AMBASSADOR MAY WISH TO REITERATE AT AN APPRO-
PRIATE LEVEL THAT WE CONSIDER THE TRADE AGREEMENT A KEY
ELEMENT IN OUR ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

2. THE EMBASSY MAY ALSO PROVIDE THE GOR WITH INFORMATION ON
THE INTERNAL PROCEDURES BY WHICH THE U.S. OBTAINS ITS

AUTHORITY UNDER SECTION 405(B)(1) TO EXTEND THE AGREEMENT, WHICH WERE ALSO EXPLAINED TO GOR AT THE JOINT COMMISSION. EMBASSY SHOULD REMIND GOR THAT OUR ACTIONS WILL BE EXAMINED IN THE CONGRESS, AND IF IT DOES NOT AGREE THAT THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 405(B)(1) HAVE BEEN MET, CONGRESS CAN EFFECTIVELY BLOCK RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENT BY DISAPPROVING EXTENSION OF THE JACKSON-VANIK WAIVER. YOU CAN INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT WE SEE NO OBSTACLES NOW TO VIGOROUS EXECUTIVE BRANCH SUPPORT FOR RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENT, PROVIDED THERE ARE NO NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN MTN RECIPROCITY OR

THE OVERALL BALANCE OF CONCESSIONS IN TRADE AND SERVICES.

3. EMBASSY MAY ALSO EXPLAIN TO GOR THAT THE RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES HAVE DECIDED THAT THEY WISH TO ADDRESS BOTH THE AGREEMENT RENEWAL AND THE EXTENSION OF THE JACKSON-VANIK WAIVER IN A SINGLE HEARING (IN EACH HOUSE). ALTHOUGH THE EXACT TIMING OF THESE HEARINGS IS STILL UNCERTAIN, WE EXPECT THEM TO BE SOMETIME IN LATE MAY OR JUNE. CONTRARY TO SUGGESTIONS AMBASSADOR NICOLAE HAS MADE TO CONGRESSMAN VANIK, WE SEE NO MERIT WHATEVER IN HOLDING HEARINGS OR TAKING A PUBLIC POSITION BY THE ADMINISTRATION PRIOR TO THE CEAUSESCU VISIT, WHICH WOULD GIVE POTENTIAL OPPONENTS OF THE TRADE AGREEMENT MORE TIME AND AN ADDITIONAL OCCASION FOR RAISING THEIR OBJECTIONS.

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4. EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO STATE THAT AT MFN HEARINGS, DEPARTMENT WITNESS WILL BE CALLED UPON TO PROVIDE A FRANK ASSESSMENT OF THE ROMANIAN EMIGRATION RECORD, INCLUDING EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL. THEREFORE FAVORABLE ACTION ON CURRENTLY PENDING US DIVIDED FAMILY AND BINATIONAL MARRIAGE CASES AS WELL AS ON JEWISH EMIGRATION CASES WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL BEFORE THE HEARINGS. VANCE

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